

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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R 281433Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2001

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG AYNG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS HEAT UP ANTI-PEKING PROPAGANDA

CINPAC FOR POLAD

REFS: A. MOSCOW 12623 (NOTAL) B. MOSCOW 12954 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AS PART OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRC'S FORTHCOMING 25TH ANNIVERSARY, MOSCOW'S ESSAYISTS ARE SHARPENING THEIR PENS. THE TOPICS OF RECENT DIATRIBES INCLUDE THE HARD LOT OF THE CHINESE PEASANT, THE MAOISTS' ALLEGED DISREGARD FOR PROPER CONSTITUTIONAL NICETIES AND THEIR ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR IMPERIALIST AND ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICIES. BESIDES THE ANNIVERSARY, THIS UPSURGE SEEMS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH IL'ICHEV'S RETURN FROM PEKING AND WITH
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MORE ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST

CONFERENCE LEADING TO A WORLD CONFERENCE. IT DOES NOT
THREATEN ANY ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AN ARTICLE BY S. BORISOV IN THE JOURNAL "RURAL
LIFE" (AUGUST 27) COMMENTED THAT AFTER 25 YEARS OF PRC
RULE, THE CHINESE PEASANT'S LIFE IS STILL DIFFICULT.
ALTHOUGH THE PRC MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE EARLY
YEARS, THE PERIOD SINCE THE "GREAT LEAP FORWARD" HAS
BEEN MARKED BY FREQUENT PROBLEMS. RECENT PEKING MEDIA
CLAIMS OF IMPROVED HARVESTS ARE BELIED BY EXHORTATIONS
TO THE PEOPLE TO STRETCH THEIR GRAIN ALLOTMENTS. FUNDS
THAT SHOULD GO TO AGRO-INDUSTRIES ARE DIRECTED TO
MILITARY SPENDING, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ONE-THIRD OF THE
STATE BUDGET, AND THE PEASANTS MUST BEAR THE COST OF
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH. THIS BLEAK SITUATION IS
WORSENERD BY THE ARBITRARY POLITICAL AUTHORITY OF THE
MAOISTS WHICH SPLITS THE PEASANTRY INTO FACTIONS.

3. AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY G. NIKOLAYEV
(AUGUST 26) DISCUSSES IN DESULTORY DETAIL THE HISTORY
OF THE PRC CONSTITUTION AND CERTAIN OF ITS KEY PROVISIONS.
THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "ON THE PATH OF LAWLESSNESS,"
FILLS IN SEVERAL POINTS CARRIED IN THE EARLIER TASS
REPORT ABOUT A POSSIBLE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
(REF A). IT REVIEWS THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NPC UNDER
THE 1954 CONSTITUTION AND CLAIMS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
EFFECTIVELY USURPED BY THE NON-DEMOCRATIC MAOIST-IMPOSED
REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES. THE NATIONAL MINORITIES,
WHOSE LAND AND RIGHTS WERE SUPPOSEDLY GUARANTEED UNDER
THE CONSTITUTION, HAVE SUFFERED MOST FROM HAN CHAUVINISM,
ABETTED BY THE MAOIST LEADERSHIP.

4. THE THEORETICAL JOURNAL "KOMMUNIST" (ISSUE #12,
SIGNED TO PRESS AUGUST 13) DEALS WITH MAOIST DEVIATIONISM
IN GREATER BREADTH IN AN ARTICLE CALLED "CHINA AFTER
THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS." ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, THE
ARTICLE CHARGES THAT THE TENTH CONGRESS FAILED TO DEAL
WITH THE SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND THE SYSTEM OF LEADERSHIP, BUT CONTINUED THE STRUGGLE
FOR POWER BY LAUNCHING THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN BIAO.
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ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE BENIGHTED CHINESE CONTINUED TO
BROADCAST THEIR NONSENSE ABOUT A "THREAT FROM THE NORTH,"
WHICH SERVES ONLY THE ANTI-SOCIALISTS INTERESTS OF THE
IMPERIALIST COLD-WARRIORS. PEKING'S EFFORTS TO FOSTER
TENSION EVERYWHERE CONTRAST WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S
"POLICY OF PEACE."

5. RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS (AUGUST 17) CONVEYED A

SIMILAR VIEW OF PRC FOREIGN POLICY, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PEKING'S ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR SUBVERSION IN BURMA. THE EVIDENCE OF THIS CHARGE WAS PEKING'S WARM GREETINGS ON THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BCP.

6. FINALLY, MOSCOW HAS DENOUNCED PEKING IN SHARPEST TERMS FOR ITS STAND ON THE CYPRUS CRISIS. ANATOLY KRASIKOV, IN A TASS COMMENTARY CALLED "PEKING'S WORDS AND DEEDS" (IZVESTIYA, AUGUST 24), BRISTLES AT PEKING'S ALLEGATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS TO BLAME FOR THE CRISIS AND CHARGES THAT PEKING'S FAILURE TO DENOUNCE NATO'S MACHINATIONS REVEALED THE HOLLOWNESS OF ITS CLAIMS TO SUPPORT SMALL COUNTRIES OF THE "THIRD WORLD." . MAKSIMOV, WRITING IN LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (AUGUST 28) ECHOED THE SAME POINTS. PEKING'S POSITION WAS TANTAMOUNT TO SIDING WITH NATO, ENCOURAGING CONTINUED FIGHTING ON THE ISLAND AND HAMPERING STEPS TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE UN. DESPITE THEIR FINE WORDS DURING MAKARIOS RECENT VISIT TO PEKING, THE PRC LEADERS DID NOTHING TO HELP HIM.

7. COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES, TOGETHER WITH FREQUENT REPLAYS OF ANTI-PEKING COMMENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, FORM A PATTERN OF HEIGHTENED INVECTIVE WHICH IS LIKELY TO INTENSIFY FURTHER AS THE PRC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY (OCTOBER 1) APPROACHES. THEY ADD FURTHER WEIGHT--IF ANY WERE NEEDED--TO THE ODDS AGAINST ANY PROGRESS IN THE BORDER TALKS FOLLOWING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IL'ICHEV'S RETURN TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK. AND THE TIMING IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT SIGNS THAT MOSCOW IS GOING AHEAD WITH PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE (REF B)--AS A FIRST STEP TO A WORLD CONFERENCE--SEEMS HARDLY COINCIDENTAL. WE WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ICY TONE OF THE CURRENT EXCHANGES IS NOT DIRECTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREATENING, AND DOES NOT IMPLY ANY SOVIET MOVE TO TRY TO ALTER THE RELATIONSHIP.
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